



**European Patent
Office**

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

under Rule 46, paragraph 1 of the European Patent Convention EP 02 00 7820

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
D,X	KIRCKHOEFER V A ET AL: "The 193-kD vault protein, VPARP, is a novel poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase" THE JOURNAL OF CELL BIOLOGY, ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY PRESS, US, vol. 146, no. 5, 6 September 1999 (1999-09-06), pages 917-928, XP002180527 = 0001 ISSN: 0021-9525	12	C12Q1/68 C12N9/10 G01N33/53 A01K67/027 A61P25/00
Y	* the whole document *	1-9, 15-19,22	
D,X	STILL I H ET AL: "Identification of a novel gene (ADPRTL1) encoding a potential Poly(ADP-ribosyl)transferase protein." GENOMICS. UNITED STATES 15 DEC 1999, vol. 62, no. 3, 15 December 1999 (1999-12-15), pages 533-536, XP002233085 = 352 ISSN: 0888-7543	12	
Y	* the whole document *	1-9, 15-19,22	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			C12Q
LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION			
The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:			
see sheet B			
The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	17 March 2003	Hagenmaier, S	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category			



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
D,X	WO 99 62547 A (ROME LEONARD H ;UNIV CALIFORNIA (US); KICKHOEFER VALERIE A (US)) 9 December 1999 (1999-12-09)	12	
Y	* the whole document *	1-9, 15-19,22	
D,Y	CHIARUGI A: "Poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase: killer or conspirator? The 'suicide hypothesis' revisited" TRENDS IN PHARMACOLOGICAL SCIENCES, ELSEVIER, AMSTERDAM, NL, vol. 23, no. 3, 1 March 2002 (2002-03-01), pages 122-129, XP004339352 ISSN: 0165-6147	1-9,12, 15-19,22	
Y	* the whole document *		
Y	SMITH S: "The world according to PARP" TIBS TRENDS IN BIOCHEMICAL SCIENCES, ELSEVIER PUBLICATION, CAMBRIDGE, EN, vol. 26, no. 3, 1 March 2001 (2001-03-01), pages 174-179, XP004229459 ISSN: 0968-0004	1-9,12, 15-19,22	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
Y	* the whole document *		
Y	LOVE S ET AL: "Increased poly(ADP-ribosyl)ation of nuclear proteins in Alzheimer's disease." BRAIN;A JOURNAL OF NEUROLOGY. ENGLAND FEB 1999, vol. 122 (Pt 2), February 1999 (1999-02), pages 247-253, XP002233086 ISSN: 0006-8950	1-9,12, 15-19,22	
Y	* the whole document *		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
Y	WO 02 22792 A (LUESCHER BERNHARD ;AUSTEN MATTHIAS (US)) 21 March 2002 (2002-03-21) see pages 1-3; claims	1-9,12, 15-19,22	
	* the whole document *		

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
Y	PERKINS E ET AL: "NOVEL INHIBITORS OF POLY(ADP-RIBOSE) POLYMERASE/PARP1 A. PARP2 IDENTIFIED USING A CELL-BASED SCREEN IN YEAST" CANCER RESEARCH, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH, BALTIMORE, MD, US, vol. 61, no. 10, 15 May 2001 (2001-05-15), pages 4175-4183, XP002208915 - ISR ISSN: 0008-5472 * the whole document *	1-9, 12, 15-19, 22	
A	EP 1 188 839 A (EVOTEC NEUROSCIENCES GMBH) 20 March 2002 (2002-03-20) = ISR * the whole document *		
A	WO 02 16636 A (EVOTEC NEUROSCIENCES GMBH ;HIPFEL RAINER (DE); KRAPPA RALF (DE); P) 28 February 2002 (2002-02-28) = ISR * the whole document *		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
A	LORING J F ET AL: "A gene expression profile of Alzheimer's disease." DNA AND CELL BIOLOGY. UNITED STATES NOV 2001, vol. 20, no. 11, November 2001 (2001-11), pages 683-695, XP002233087 = ISR ISSN: 1044-5498 * the whole document *		
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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	<p>"Consensus report of the Working Group on: "Molecular and Biochemical Markers of Alzheimer's Disease". The Ronald and Nancy Reagan Research Institute of the Alzheimer's Association and the National Institute on Aging Working Group." NEUROBIOLOGY OF AGING. UNITED STATES 1998 MAR-APR, vol. 19, no. 2, March 1998 (1998-03), pages 109-116, XP002233088 - 152 ISSN: 0197-4580 * the whole document *</p> <p>-----</p>		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-19,22 (all completely)

Methods of diagnosing, prognosticating, monitoring the progression or evaluating a treatment of a neurodegenerative disease comprising determining the level and/or activity of a transcription/translation product of a gene coding for a vault protein in a sample; a kit for diagnosing or prognosticating a neurodegenerative disease comprising at least one reagent that selectively detects a transcription/translation product of a gene coding for a vault protein; a recombinant non-human animal comprising a non-native gene sequence of a vault protein, an assay for screening for a modulator of a neurodegenerative disease using vault polynucleotides or proteins, use of an antibody specifically immunoreactive with an immunogen, wherein said immunogen is a translation product of a gene coding for a vault protein for detecting a neurodegenerative disease.

2. Claims: 20,21 (all completely)

An assay for testing a compound, preferably for screening a plurality of compounds for inhibition of binding between a ligand and a vault protein and an assay for testing a compound, preferably for screening a plurality of compounds to determine the degree of binding of said compounds to a vault protein.



Claim(s) not searched:
10,11,13

Reason for the limitation of the search (non-patentable invention(s)):

Article 52 (4) EPC - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by therapy

Further limitation of the search

Claim(s) not searched:
14

Reason for the limitation of the search:

Present claim 14 relates to a product defined by reference to a desirable characteristic or property, namely being a modulator of an activity or a level of at least one substance selected from the group listed in claim 14 under (i)-(iv). The claim covers all products having this characteristic or property, whereas the application does not provide any support within the meaning of Article 84 EPC and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 83 EPC for such products. In the present case, the claim so lacks support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Independent of the above reasoning, the claim also lacks clarity (Article 84 EPC). An attempt is made to define the product by reference to a result to be achieved. Again, this lack of clarity in the present case is such as to render a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope impossible. Consequently, no search has been carried out for claim 14.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 02 00 7820

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

17-03-2003

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 9962547	A	09-12-1999	WO	9962547 A1	09-12-1999
			AU	7810398 A	20-12-1999
			EP	1083927 A1	21-03-2001
			JP	2002516675 T	11-06-2002
WO 0222792	A	21-03-2002	AU	2054602 A	26-03-2002
			WO	0222792 A2	21-03-2002
EP 1188839	A	20-03-2002	EP	1188839 A1	20-03-2002
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